Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

UNCLAS STATE 309042

FOLLOWING REPEAT LA PAZ 09881 ACTION SECSTATE, LONDON KUALA LUMPUR DTD 14 DEC 76.

QTE:

UNCLAS LA PAZ 9881

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EMIN. BL

SUBJ: BOLIVIAN OFFICIAL REACTION TO NEW ITC BUFFER-STOCK TIN PRICES

1. THE GOB'S FURTHER REACTION TO THE RECENT ITC MEETING HAS BEEN EXPRESSED BY GENERAL VILLALPANDO, MINISTER OF MINES, IN A STRONGLY WORDED EIGHT-POINT PRESS RELEASE STATING THAT ONCE AGAIN CONSUMER COUNTRIES INTERESTS HAVE PREVAILED WITH NEW PRICE LEVELS ESTABLISHED BY ITC. THE RELEASE STRESSES THAT CONSUMER NATIONS HAVE ACTED ARROGANTLY AND REJECTED BOLIVIAN PROPOSALS BASED ON BOLIVIA'S CALCULATED MINING COST. THE DOCUMENT CONTAINS THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT READ BY THE UNCLASSIFIED

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BOLIVIAN DELEGATION AFTER THE VOTE ON BUFFER STOCK PRICE LEVELS.

2. COMMENT. THE GOB IS WAITING FOR THE RETURN OF ITS ITC DELEGATION AND ITS OCCICIAL REPORT BEFORE IT DECIDES WHAT ACTION TO TAKE. THE STRONGLY WORDED PRESS RELEASE REFLECTS

THE CONSIDERABLE DISCONTENT WITHIN BOLIVIAN MINING CIRLCES WITH THE RESULTS OF THE MEETING. WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED TO SEE THE GOB AGAIN GO TO THE BRINK IN AN EFFORT TO OBTAIN HIGHER BUFFER STOCK PRICE LEVELS, AS IT DID IN JUNE, BUT WHETHER GOB IS PREPARED IN THE END NOT TO FINALLY RATIFY THE FIFTH ITA IF IT DOESN'T GET ITS WAY IS UNPREDICTABLE AT THIS POINT. END COMMENT

3. ACTION REQUESTED. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE TO REFUTE GOB ALLEGATIONS THAT CONSUMER COUNTRIES ACTED ARROGANTLY AND DID NOT PROPERLY CONSIDER BOLIVIAN PROPOSALS.

STEDMAN

UNQTE: ROBINSON

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NNN

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